

tion, but such minor matters as franchise rights, municipal ownership and settlements with the city he has not had a hand in. In fact, he has been in Europe nearly all the time since the sale of the south side road was made. Now, however, Mr. Morgan has awakened to the fact that buying a Chicago street car line with no franchise, or only a partial franchise, was one thing, and maintaining the value of its stock at a price which makes the purchase a good bargain is another, and he has determined to take a hand in the game himself. So a meeting has been called at his office in New York for this morning. John A. Spoor, John J. Mitchell, and Vice President Mitten of the Chicago City railway have been invited to be present, and it is reported that R. R. Govin, who is better acquainted with the Chicago situation than any of the easterners connected with the Union Traction company, has also been asked. It is possible that W. W. Gurley, who is now in the East, may be there also.

The New Foundland grab.

No cable reports of the progress of the attempt of the Harmsworths, of London, to reestablish feudalism in Newfoundland (p. 277) are available; but the last number of "Land Values," of Glasgow, reports that—

on Thursday, June 22, the question was brought under the notice of the House of Commons by the following series of questions: Mr. Whitley asked the Colonial Secretary whether, in view of the fact that the contract "contains provisions which are in contravention of the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1903," he will advise His Majesty to withhold his consent to the bill until full inquiry has been made into the circumstances under which the contract was entered into. Mr. Trevelyan asked if His Majesty will be advised to withhold assent till an opportunity has been afforded to the electors of Newfoundland to express their opinion upon it at a general election. Mr. Levy, in calling attention to the fact that the lease is for 99 years, and conveys a right of continuous renewal over 3,000 square miles of land, made the suggestion that "the paid agent of the said company spoke and voted in the Legislative Council on the bill for approving and confirming the said contract," and asked what steps will be taken in the matter. Mr. Herbert Samuel, "in view of the unusual provisions of the contract," asked that a copy of it, and the bill to confirm it, be printed for the information of the House. Sir John Brunner asked in a further question that His Majesty be advised to withhold his consent to the bill "until clauses shall have been inserted in the indenture for the more

effectual safeguarding of the rights of the Crown and of the citizens of the Colony in the lands affected." Mr. Lyttleton said that until he received the act as finally passed by the Newfoundland legislature, he was not in a position to decide what action he should take in the matter, but in the meantime he referred members to Mr. Chamberlain's dispatch of 5th December, 1898, to the governor of Newfoundland, as laying down the general principles which had guided his predecessors in considering the question of advising His Majesty in regard to the disallowance of the acts of colonies possessing responsible government. Mr. Whitley put a long supplementary question as to the irritation caused by the hurried manner in which the bill was passed through the legislature by the suspension of standing orders, but the Speaker ruled that notice must be given of it.

NEWS NOTES

—The extraordinary session of the Swedish Riksdag (p. 276) closed on the 3d.

—The third annual convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters met at Philadelphia on the 7th.

—Secretary Taft and his party (p. 280) arrived at Manila on the 5th. There was a parade of 10,000, including soldiers, in his honor on the 7th.

—Louis F. Post will speak at All Souls' Church (Oakwood boulevard and Langley avenue, Chicago, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, minister), on the 13th, at 11 a. m. Subject: "A Non-ecclesiastical Confession of Religious Faith."

—Alexander Melville Bell, inventor of "visible speech," died at Washington on the 7th at the age of 86. His father was Alexander Bell, who invented a method of obviating impediments of speech, and his son is the distinguished Alexander Graham Bell.

—A fire on the 8th, early in the morning, swept away the main depot at Hoboken, N. J., opposite New York city, of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, with 600 feet of train sheds, the ferry house, and an adjacent hotel. The loss is put at \$2,000,000, and no lives are reported as lost.

—The United States and Nicaragua company is the name of concern, exploited by Standard Oil interests and capitalized at \$20,000,000, which was reported from New York on the 5th as having acquired great interests in Nicaragua. It holds the exclusive right to dig mines and the use of waters and timbers within the States of Cape Gracias, Jinotega and Segovia, including the State of Estell, now merged and forming part of the State of Jinotega and Segovia. This territory extends almost the whole width of Nicaragua, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Its area is nearly 10,000,000 acres.

—A demurrer to an indictment of three Christian Scientists for manslaughter, consequent upon the death of a child of two of the defendants (the third being a Christian Science healer) from diphtheria, for which the defendants had not called a physician, was sustained on the 7th by the county judge of Westchester Co., New York. This judge decides that the parents of children have a right to determine, within reasonable bounds, what mode of treatment their children shall have; and that the child of a Christian Scientist, placed in the hands of a reader or healer, has, in legal contemplation, the same safety in life and limb as the child who is given into the hands of a licensed physician.

PRESS OPINIONS

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP GRAFTING.

(Chicago) Examiner (Dem.), Aug. 8.—The men indicted for grafting in Milwaukee are strong opponents of municipal ownership. Private ownership of street car lines, lighting plants and garbage plants is responsible for the graft that is now in the city departments of that otherwise beautiful city. . . . The Milwaukee Rendering company (a private concern, whose chief business was hauling away dead dogs, dead cats and dead horses) wanted a monopoly of all the fat smelting business of Milwaukee. It got a contract through the Council. This company turned over \$2,000 to Pfister "to expend as Gross director." Gross is the president of the rendering company. That transaction of beating the municipal garbage idea got Pfister into trouble. Others got graft for putting the deal through. Again, the people of Milwaukee voted for a lighting plant. Pfister's paper—"it is a safe, sane and conservative" paper—then began to print elaborate articles on the evils of municipal ownership. The plan was denounced as "socialistic." The Council finally concluded to have no city lighting plant. Graft, it is charged, killed the verdict of the people. The grafters and the graft takers were strong against municipal ownership. Again, there was a fight in Milwaukee over a street car franchise. It was finally secured by a private company. The people of Milwaukee know the extent of the grafting that was done to get this deal through. All the rascals who bribed and all the rascals who took bribes in this street car deal sneer at municipal ownership advocates as addlepated visionaries. Get at the bottom of all the graft in Milwaukee, and you will find that private ownership is responsible for it.

SECRETARY TAFT ON DISFRANCHISEMENT.

The (New York) Worker (Soc.), Aug. 5.—There is really nothing surprising in the recent declaration of Secretary of War Taft in favor of the disfranchising "all ignorant voters, whites as well as blacks." It is quite in keeping with the undemocratic trend of thought which now rules at Washington and which is being most industriously cultivated by the various spokesmen of great capitalism, in press, pulpit and college chair. It is not surprising, but it is well worth noting. From a purely partisan point of view, we Socialists could have no objection to any moderate educational qualification honestly applied. The average of intelligence and of education among our voters is much high-